

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MADRID 06508 191033Z

21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 181651Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3039
INFO USUN 531
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

S E C R E T MADRID 6508

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SS, SP
SUBJ: CHIEF OF HIGH GENERAL STAFF VALLESPIN'S VIEWS ON THE SAHARA

1. TODAY AT A SOCIAL EVENT CHIEF OF HIGH GENERAL STAFF
VALLESPIN EXPRESSED THE FOLLOWING VIEWS TO ME REGARDING THE
SAHARA:

A. WHILE THE SAHARA WAS RELATIVELY QUIET AT THIS TIME,
THAT COULD CHANGE AT ANY TIME AND THE SITUATION THERE WAS ONE
THAT REQUIRED COOL NERVES.

B. HE DID NOT EXPECT EITHER THE REPORT OF THE UN VISIT-
ING MISSION OR THE ICJ ADVISORY OPINION TO RESOLVE ANYTHING.
HE EXPECTED BOTH TO BE VAGUE AND INCONCLUSIVE.

C. HIS OWN VIEW WAS THAT THE BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE
FOR SPAIN TO GIVE UP THE SAHARA TO MOROCCO, WERE IT NOT FOR
THE ALGERIAN ANGLE. ALGERIA WOULD NOT AGREE, AND SPAIN DID
NOT WANT TO GET CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT BETWEEN
ALGERIA AND MOROCCO. IN THIS REGARD, ONE HAD TO REMEMBER
THAT WHILE IT WAS TRUE THAT MOROCCO HAD A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER
OF TROOPS ALONG THE SAHARAN BORDER, IT WAS EQUALLY TRUE THAT
IT HAD A NUMBER OF TROOPS ALONG THE ALGERIAN BORDER.

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D. SPAIN WANTED TO GET OUT OF THE SAHARA IN AN ORDERLY WAY, BUT THE PROBLEM WAS HOW AND WHEN. THE UN COULD AND SHOULD BE HELPFUL.

2. COMMENT: THE FOREGOING REFLECTS THE SPANISH OFFICIAL POSITION, WITH VALLESPIN'S PERSONAL TWIST FAVORING A MOROCCAN DEAL WERE IT NOT TOO TROUBLESOME WITH ALGERIA.
EATON

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NNN

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